



Loudoun County, Virginia

www.loudoun.gov

Board of Supervisors

1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5th Floor, MSC #1, Leesburg, VA 20175

Telephone (703) 777-0204 • Fax (703) 777-0421 • email: bos@loudoun.gov

February 12, 2015

Loudoun Water Board of Directors
44865 Loudoun Water Way
PO Box 4000
Ashburn, VA 20146

Dear Loudoun Water Board Members,

On behalf of the many Blue Ridge District citizens affected by your recent decision to build an elevated water tower off of Red Hill Road in the 600 zone, I respectfully request that you reconsider your plans to construct that elevated 189' water tower. Building just one elevated tank versus two is not an acceptable compromise. I know you are aware that the planned site is also approximately just 1000' from the Rural Policy Area next to resident's homes which have been in Loudoun County for decades. These residents and I were very clear with your staff regarding acknowledgment of the need for the new water storage. Even though many in the community will not be Loudoun Water customers, the community came together and decided on a compromise, which did not consist of one tank but rather for the water storage to be tree height or lower. However, your staff has fought us on this option every step of the way, providing inconsistent and escalating cost estimates that do not remotely resemble that of building lower ground storage tanks in other jurisdictions, including Prince William County and Fairfax County.

With your decision to construct an elevated tank next to the Rural Policy Area, where most of the people are prohibited from benefitting from Loudoun Water's infrastructure, you are not respecting the comprehensive plan regarding the effect on the surrounding area. You have the opportunity to show that you can be a progressive water authority in keeping with the progressive County that we are, and you should respect the character of the different areas of the County. This respect for the character of the county can still be achieved by constructing the needed water storage tanks in the fashion that the community is requesting. Therefore we firmly believe there is time for you to change your decision on the type of structure you will build at this location and direct your staff to build water storage tree height or below.

As you know, the Board of Supervisors' final vote on your SPEX for the elevated water tank was a 5-4 vote, with Chairman York being that fifth vote. I remain firmly convinced that if your General Manager, Mr. Fred Jennings had not contacted Chairman York shortly before the Board's final vote in order to get the Chairman to change his vote from the Chairman's vote of denial in the Transportation and Land Use Committee, then your staff would have had to go back and plan for these lower towers.



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In fact, staff going back wouldn't have been prohibitive because you hold a Commission Permit for that site. We in fact, had that discussion with your staff in the Board Transportation and Land Use Committee. To that end, I feel compelled to convey to you that the information coming from your staff has not been forthcoming or fully honest. This has been a consistent problem on several Loudoun Water issues. Please keep this in mind because this chronic communication problem is not a good representation of our County water authority.

You are appointed representatives serving at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors, but yes, with largely separate authority from the Board once we appoint you. I personally appreciate your willingness to serve and respect our differences, but feel that in my elected Board position I have a responsibility to represent what the majority of the directly impacted community requests. So please remember that no one disputes the need for the water storage, only the type of structure you should build. Respecting that acknowledgement of the need, I ask that you be sensitive to county citizens in how you construct the water storage on Red Hill Road. In doing so you now have the ability to make a groundbreaking decision to change your mind in allowing your staff to build elevated tanks in the Transition Policy Area and further direct Loudoun Water staff to build this and any future water storage tanks in the Transition Policy Area at tree height or lower. This would be a monumental shift from status quo operations to the next level of operations and speak well of your Board's actions, particularly in light of Loudoun Water's current community issues primarily stemming from actions by Loudoun Water staff with Raspberry Falls, Selma, community systems, the handling of Beaverdam Reservoir, and the Red Hill water towers.

Once again, thank you for your willingness to serve on the Loudoun Water Board and for listening. With all things considered, please think about my request on behalf of the communities we serve and provide me with notification in writing as to what you decide to do so I can convey that information to the constituents in the Blue Ridge District, which is the community affected by the type of water storage structure you decide to build.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me to further discuss these matters. I have also included some additional information for your review in your consideration.

Respectfully,

Janet Clarke
Blue Ridge District Supervisor
703.777.0210
janet.clarke@loudoun.gov